

Remarks

The Office Action mailed February 12, 2004 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-25 and 27-41 are now pending in this application. Claim 26 has been cancelled. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-41 stand rejected.

The objection to the specification is respectfully traversed. Applicant respectfully submit that an artisan of ordinary skill in the art, after reading the specification in light of the Figures, would understand the scope of the claims and how to make and use the invention. For the reasons set forth above, Applicant requests that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 25 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph is respectfully traversed. Claim 26 has been canceled. Applicant submits that Claim 25 particularly points out, and distinctly claims, the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention, and thus are definite. Specifically, Claim 25 has been amended to recite "said first processor is adapted to allow the at least one available building option to be electronically accessible to a second user...." For the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 112 rejections of Claims 25 and 26 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1-41 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Fukuda et al. ("Fukuda") ("Networked VR system: kitchen layout design for customers") is respectfully traversed.

Fukuda describes a networked Virtual Reality (VR) system that allows customers to preview their kitchen layout designs in a VR setting. Data is input into the VR system allowing the customer to have a clear concept of the potential purchase and also take part in the design process including modifying the design. Customers can access the VR system on the Internet and modify the design from home. Notably, Fukuda describes kitchen design, rather than new building design. Specifically, Fukuda states the authors have made "progress to widen the

technology from kitchens to the whole house.” This refers to the ability to allow the customer to roam the entire house in VR, not design an entire house.

Furthermore, the authors express their “goal is to expand the scope of our system so that an entire home may be designed.” The article does not describe, suggest, particularly point out, or distinctly claim a VR home design system. Notably, Fukuda does not describe or suggest a method of managing building options for constructing a new building.

Claim 1 recites “a method of managing building options, comprising obtaining from a first user an indication of at least one available new building option for constructing a new building...causing the at least one available new building option to be electronically accessible to a second user...providing information electronically on the at least one available new building option to the second user...obtaining electronically from the second user an indication of at least one choice from among the at least one available new building option...and providing the indication of the at least one choice to the first user.

Fukuda does not describe nor suggest a method of managing building options, including obtaining from a first user an indication of at least one available new building option for constructing a new building, causing the at least one available new building option to be electronically accessible to a second user, providing information electronically on the at least one available new building option to the second user, obtaining electronically from the second user an indication of at least one choice from among the at least one available new building option, and providing the indication of the at least one choice to the first user. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Fukuda describes a VR system for designing kitchens. For the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Fukuda.

Claims 2-14 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2-14 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicant submits that dependent Claims 2-14 likewise are patentable over Fukuda.

Claim 15 recites “a system of managing building options, comprising a first processor adapted to obtain from a first user an indication of at least one available new building option ...and a second processor being adapted to allow the at least one available new building option to be electronically accessible to a second user, said second processor being adapted to obtain electronically from said second user an indication of at least one choice from among the at least one available new building option, and said second processor being adapted to provide the at least one choice to said first user.”

Fukuda does not describe nor suggest a system of managing building options, comprising a first processor adapted to obtain from a first user an indication of at least one available new building option ...and a second processor being adapted to allow the at least one available new building option to be electronically accessible to a second user, said second processor being adapted to obtain electronically from said second user an indication of at least one choice from among the at least one available new building option, and said second processor being adapted to provide the at least one choice to said first user. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Fukuda describes a VR system for designing kitchens. For the reasons set forth above, Claim 15 is submitted to be patentable over Fukuda.

Claim 26 has been canceled. Claims 16-25 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 15. When the recitations of Claims 16-25 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 15, Applicant submits that dependent Claims 16-25 likewise are patentable over Fukuda.

Claim 27 recites “at least one program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying at least one program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method of managing building options, said method comprising obtaining from a first user an indication of at least one available new building option for constructing a new building...causing the at least one available option to be electronically accessible to a second user...providing information electronically on the at least one available new building option to the second user...obtaining

electronically from the second user an indication of at least one choice from among the at least one available new building option...and providing the indication of the at least one choice to the first user.”

Fukuda does not describe nor suggest at least one program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying at least one program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method of managing building options, said method comprising obtaining from a first user an indication of at least one available new building option for constructing a new building, causing the at least one available option to be electronically accessible to a second user, providing information electronically on the at least one available new building option to the second user, obtaining electronically from the second user an indication of at least one choice from among the at least one available new building option, and providing the indication of the at least one choice to the first user. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Fukuda describes a VR system for designing kitchens. For the reasons set forth above, Claim 27 is submitted to be patentable over Fukuda.

Claims 28-40 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 27. When the recitations of Claims 28-40 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 27, Applicant submits that dependent Claims 28-40 likewise are patentable over Fukuda.

Claim 41 recites “a system for managing building options comprising means for obtaining from a first user an indication of at least one available new building option for at least one of constructing a building and modifying an existing building...means for causing the at least one available new building option to be electronically accessible to a second user...means for providing information electronically on the at least one new building option to said second user...means for obtaining electronically from said second user an indication of at least one choice from among the at least one available new building option...and means for providing the indication of the at least one choice to said first user.”

Fukuda does not describe nor suggest a system for managing building options comprising means for obtaining from a first user an indication of at least one available new building option for at least one of constructing a building and modifying an existing building, means for causing the at least one available new building option to be electronically accessible to a second user, means for providing information electronically on the at least one new building option to said second user, means for obtaining electronically from said second user an indication of at least one choice from among the at least one available new building option, and means for providing the indication of the at least one choice to said first user. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Fukuda describes a VR system for designing kitchens. For the reasons set forth above, Claim 41 is submitted to be patentable over Fukuda.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 102 rejection of Claims 1-41 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



Thomas M. Fisher
Registration No. 47,564
ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP
One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600
St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2740
(314) 621-5070